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C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 001605

SIPDIS

NSC FOR GREEN/DORMANDY
LONDON FOR POL-GURNEY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/13/2014

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: NEPAL: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE DELIVERED TO PRIME
MINISTER

REF: WHITE HOUSE 4060

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Moriarty. Reasons 1.4 (b/d)

1. (U) On August 13, the Ambassador delivered by hand the President's message of congratulations to the Prime Minister. Upon its receipt, Prime Minister Deuba exclaimed how he had always been an admirer of the President. The Prime Minister noted that the President was making difficult decisions and trying to build a better world, one free from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. Deuba added that even when he was not in office, he was the only Nepali political leader to come out publicly in favor of the Iraq war. He expressed his hope that the President's vision would prevail.

NEPALESE TROOPS FOR IRAQ

2. (C) The Prime Minister raised the possibility of providing Nepalese troops for UN troop protection in Iraq. He explained that although he supported such a deployment, his main coalition partner had not been very positive. He and the Ambassador agreed they would have to continue to raise it again and again.

THE PEACE PROCESS

3. (C) Prime Minister Deuba discussed the way forward on the peace process with Nepal's Maoists. Deuba said the Peace Secretariat was taking shape, but would require one or two

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more weeks to gel, as membership was sorted out among the coalition parties. He described a Peace Committee that would have an apex political body; civil society would have input and there would be an underbody of experts that would brief the apex body. The Cabinet would then have to approve the Peace Committee. Deuba mentioned there were concerns by the Ministers that the apex body (which would consist primarily of senior party officials) not be able to interfere in the government.

THE INDIAN ROLE

4. (C) The Prime Minister stressed to the Ambassador that he was talking with his coalition partners to gain agreement regarding the conduct of peace talks with the Maoists. He noted a number of concerns, the most difficult of which was figuring out how to handle India. The Ambassador told him the USG believed it important to keep India on the right side of the process because India could play an important, positive role. Deuba was also concerned about the venue, which needed to be kept secret, as well as the details of the talks. The Prime Minister commented that creating a common position was a slow process that required continuous consultations.

THREATS AGAINST U.S. FIRM

5. (C) The Ambassador also brought up Maoist threats against an American joint venture company owned by Coca-Cola. The Prime Minister assured the Ambassador that Chief of Army Staff General Thapa had briefed him on the threat and that the Royal Nepal Army would provide all necessary security. Deuba told the Ambassador that the Government was also preparing for the threatened August 18 blockade, although it was not yet confirmed whether any blockade would actually occur.

MORIARTY